

## REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for confirming the acceptability of the filed drawings, for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for considering all the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 20, 2006.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-7, 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter, and that these claims would be allowable if they are amended to be placed into independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the current amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to include substantially all the limitations of objected claim 4. Applicants further amend objected claim 6 to include substantially all the limitations of base claim 1. In addition, Applicants have reviewed the claims pending in the application, and made appropriate revisions thereto to address the Examiner's concerns that the claims are narrative.

In view of the present amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that the ground for the objection to the claims no longer exist. Further, Applicants submit that 1-3 and 5-11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate the allowability of claims 1-3 and 5-11 in the next official communication.

In view of the nature of the amendments, Applicants submit that it is not necessary to discuss the appropriateness of the rejections made by the Examiner, as the grounds for said

rejections no longer exist. Further, the nature of the present amendments to the claims should not be taken as acquiescing to the appropriateness of the rejections, but as a desire to quickly advance the application to issue. In this regard, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit claims based upon the original claims in another application.

Applicants also submit new dependent claims 12-15 for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants submit that these claims are allowable over the applied art of record for at least the same reasons applicable to claims 1-3 and 5-11, as the newly added claims depend from either allowable claim 6 or 13. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to indicate the allowability of claims 12-15 in the next official communication.

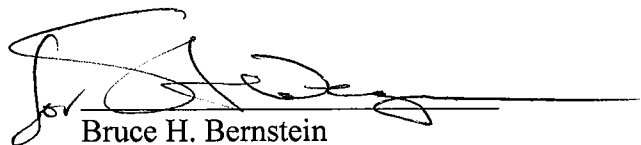
#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tomokazu HARANO et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', written over a horizontal line.

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